Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

NWQI - Stage Stand Creek 104

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c.Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c.Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b.Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Conservation Activity Plans _ If this application is for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) answer this question only and set the application type to "Planning".	

1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) developed by a registered TSP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
Water Quality - EPA Watersheds	
2. a. Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within 1/4 mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous) and on the EPA 303(d) list, or listed as impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list, or specified as a critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist?	100 Point(s)
Geographic Impacts	
3. a. Are more than 75 percent of the acres treated i. Located within a NWQI watershed AND ii. Do they have at least one core conservation practice planned on them?calculations).?	125 Point(s)
Collaborative Efforts	
4. a. Are core conservation practices planned forthe applicant's treated acres within an existing non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75 Point(s)
Effort to Address Watershed Impairments	
5. a. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the NWQI primary resource concerns?	50 Point(s)
High Risk Soils	
6. a. Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified Hydro logic Group D (high runoff) or Group A (high infiltration)?	50 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Business Lines - TSP developed Conservation Activity Plan. If the answer to this question is yes do not answer any other questions. The application type should be set to "planning".	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Adaptation of core practices	
2. a. Will the proposed contract activities include 2 or more core practices in the project area?	150 Point(s)
2. b. Will the proposed contract activities include 1core practice in the project area?	100 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation	
3. a. Will the proposed project decrease organics and sediment deposition in streams through the implementation of a prescribed grazing plan on the majority of the acres.	10 Point(s)
3. b. Will the proposed project reduce sediment and organic deposition through the conversion of cropland to permanent Grass?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Will the proposed project address active gully erosion that will reduce sediment loads in the targeted streams?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Will the proposed project reduce turbidity and organics in the targeted stream by excluding livestock from all blue line streams within the project area?	10 Point(s)
3. e. Will the proposed project reduce turbidity and organics in the targeted stream by installing filters, field borders, or riparian buffers along blue line streams within the project area?	10 Point(s)
Reduction of sediment deposition due to soil tillage. (This question will only apply to operation with existing cropland. Answer the one question that best describes the proposed project.)	
4. a. Will the proposed project result in a reduction of active sheet and rill erosion from existing cropland which will reduce sediment deposition in impaired streams by converting to permanent grass?	50 Point(s)
4. b. Will the proposed project result in a reduction of active sheet and rill erosion from existing cropland which will reduce sediment deposition in impaired streams by implementing a continuous no-till system on that cropland?	40 Point(s)
4. c. Will the proposed project result in a reduction of active sheet and rill erosion from existing cropland which will reduce sediment deposition in impaired streams by implementing a mulch-till or ridge-till residue management system?	30 Point(s)